

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 GENEVA 08957 101902Z

60

ACTION DHA-02

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 ORM-02 NSC-05 INR-07

CIAE-00 SP-02 L-03 TRSE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-06 PM-04

DODE-00 AID-05 /070 W

----- 048572

R 101737Z NOV 76

FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3508

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY RABAT

USUN NEW YORK 3894

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE GENEVA 8957

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SREF UNHCR AG MR MO SS

SUBJECT: GENEVA PRESS ARTICLE ON DISPLACED PERSONS IN TINDOUF AREA

REF: GENEVA 8893

1. ADDRESSEES MAY HAVE INTEREST IN ARTICLE REPORTED
REFTEL WHICH APPEARED IN NOV. 6/7 ISSUE OF TRIBUNE DE
GENEVE. INFORMAL TRANSLATION OF TEXT FOLLOWS:

2. BEGIN TEXT. APPEAL LAUNCHED BY HIGH COMMISSIONER
FOR REFUGEES: 90,000 SAHRAOUI WOMEN AND CHILDREN DESTITUTE
AS WINTER BEGINS. ON THE OCCASION OF THE OPENING OF THE
UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN NEW YORK, NOV 5, A
NEW APPEAL TO INTERNATIONAL UNITY HAS BEEN MADE BY THE
HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES ON BEHALF OF SOME 90,000
SAHRAOUI REFUGEES DISPERSED IN 22 CAMPS IN THE TINDOUF
AREA IN THE EXTREME WESTERN SECTOR OF ALGERIA. THIS WAS
MENTIONED DURING A PRESS CONFERENCE HELD RECENTLY, IN
COLLABORATION WITH THE SWISS COMMITTEE OF SUPPORT FOR
THE SAHRAOUI PEOPLE, BY REPRESENTATIVES OF THE INTER-
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 GENEVA 08957 101902Z

NATIONAL FEDERATION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS, WHOSE SECRETARY-

GENERAL, MAITRE DENIS PAYOT, RECENTLY RETURNED FROM A TRIP TO ALGERIA WHERE HE VISITED 9 CAMPS. THIS (TRIP) WAS MADE PRINCIPALLY IN ORDER TO VERIFY ON THE SCENE THE VALIDITY OF REPORTS SENT BY MOROCCO AND MAURITANIA TO THE UNHCR EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE. THESE UNDERScoreD THE ALMOST COMPLETE DESTITUTION IN WHICH THE GROUP, COMPOSED ESSENTIALLY OF WOMEN, CHILDREN AND OLD PEOPLE, WERE SUBSISTING AS WINTER APPROACHES.

3. URGENT: CANVAS TO MAKE 9,000 TENTS. ACTUALLY, ONLY 15 PERCENT OF THE REFUGEE TENTS, MADE OF CAMEL AND GOAT SKIN, ARE ADAPTED TO THE RUGGES SAHARA CLIMATE; OTHERS HAVE BEEN MADE ON THE SPOT WITH MILL ENDS OF CLOTH SEWN TOGETHER, AND IT IS ESTIMATED THAT 40 PERCENT OF THEM CANNOT STAND UP IN THIS WINTER'S VIOLENT WINDS. IT IS THEREFORE NECESSARY TO PROVIDE ENOUGH CANVAS TO MAKE SOME 9,000 TENTS. UNTIL NOW, ME. PAYOT RECALLED, HUMANITARIAN AID FROM SWITZERLAND HAS AMOUNTED TO ONE MILLION SWISS FRANCS. THE UNHCR AND THE ALGERIAN RED CRESCENT ESTIMATE THAT FIVE MILLION DOLLARS ARE NEEDED ANNUALLY IN ORDE TO COVER BASIC FOOD AND MEDICINE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE SAHARAN REFUGEES. THIS HAS PROMPTED THE SWISS COMMITTEE OF SUPPORT FOR THE SAHRAOUI PEOPLE TO MAKE AN APPEAL FOR PUBLIC ASSISTANCE.

4. THE UNITED NATIONS RECOGNIZED THEIR RIGHTS TO SELF-DETERMINATION. ME. PAYOT TOOK THE OCCASION OF THIS MEETING WITH THE PRESS TO RECALL THAT SEVERAL U.S. RESOLUTIONS -- THE MOST RECENT BEING IN DECEMBER 1975 -- HAVE PROCLAIMED THE RIGHT TO SELF-DETERMINATION OF THE PEOPLE OF WESTERN SAHARA, AND THAT A DECISION OF THE INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE IN THE HAGUE CONCLUDED IN OCTOBER 1975 THAT BONDS OF TERRITORIAL SOVEREIGNTY BETWEEN "THE TERRITORY OF WESTERN SAHARA ON THE ONE HAND, AND THE KINGDOM OF MOROCCO OR THE MAURITANIAN STATE ON THE OTHER" DID NOT EXIST.

5. MILITARY THREAT TO THE TINDOUF CAMPS? HE THEN DESCRIBED THE SUBSTANCE OF A PERSONAL INTERVIEW THAT MR. HOUARI BOUMEDIENNE, PRESIDENT OF THE ALGERIAN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 GENEVA 08957 101902Z

COUNCIL OF MINISTERS, HAD RECENTLY GRANTED HIM, IN WHICH HE EMPHASIZED THAT "ALGERIA WANTS THE INDEPENDENCE OF THE WESTERN SAHARA, BASED BOTH ON THE U.N. RESOLUTIONS AND UPON ITS OWN EXPERIENCE VIS-A-VIS THE FRENCH COLONIAL POWER; THAT IT (ALGERIA) COULD UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCE DISREGARD THE POSSIBILITY OF A MOROCCAN ATTACK ON THE CAMPS OF THE SAHRAOUI REFUGEES IN THE TINDOUF AREA; AND THAT FINALLY THE INTERVENTION OF

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, PARTICULARLY THE UNHCR,
WAS CALLED FOR IN VIEW OF THE GRAVITY OF THE
SITUATION." END TEXT.ABRAMS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, REFUGEES, TEXT
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 NOV 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: coburnhl
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976GENEVA08957
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760419-0974
From: GENEVA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761163/aaaaccrw.tel
Line Count: 118
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION DHA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 GENEVA 8893
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: coburnhl
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 JUN 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <04 MAY 2004 by buchant0>; APPROVED <30 AUG 2004 by CunninFX>; RELEASED <27 JUN 2005 by blochd0>; APPROVED <05 JUL 2005 by coburnhl>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GENEVA PRESS ARTICLE ON DISPLACED PERSONS IN TINDOUF AREA
TAGS: SREF, AG, MR, MO, SS, UNHCR
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006